

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JON T. GROBMAN, F-91808, )  
Petitioner, ) No. C 10-3785 CRB (PR)  
vs. ) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
BRENDA CASH, Acting Warden, )  
Respondent. )

---

Petitioner, a state prisoner incarcerated at California State Prison, Los Angeles County, has filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging a sentence from Santa Clara County Superior Court.

## BACKGROUND

Petitioner pleaded guilty to four counts of first degree burglary, two counts of receiving stolen property, one count of vehicle theft with a prior conviction, one count of receiving a stolen vehicle with a prior conviction and one count of possession of methamphetamine. He also admitted that he had served two prior prison terms, and that he had been convicted of two prior serious felonies and four prior violent or serious felonies that qualified as strikes under the Three Strikes Law. On September 21, 2007, the trial court sentenced petitioner to an

1 indeterminate prison term of 150 years to life consecutive to a determinate term  
2 of 40 years.

3 Petitioner unsuccessfully appealed his sentence to the California Court of  
4 Appeal and the Supreme Court of California, which on July 13, 2009 denied  
5 review of a petition allegedly raising the same claim raised here.

6 **DISCUSSION**

7 A. Standard of Review

8 This court may entertain a petition for a writ of habeas corpus "in behalf  
9 of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the  
10 ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of  
11 the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

12 It shall "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show  
13 cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application  
14 that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto." Id. § 2243.

15 B. Claims

16 Petitioner seeks federal habeas corpus relief on the ground that he received  
17 an illegal sentence. Liberally construed, the claim appears minimally cognizable  
18 under § 2254 and merits an answer from respondent. See Zichko v. Idaho, 247  
19 F.3d 1015, 1020 (9th Cir. 2001) (federal courts must construe pro se petitions for  
20 writs of habeas corpus liberally).

21 **CONCLUSION**

22 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown,

23 1. The clerk shall serve a copy of this order and the petition and all  
24 attachments thereto on respondent and respondent's attorney, the Attorney  
25 General of the State of California. The clerk also shall serve a copy of this order  
26 on petitioner.

1           2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within  
2 60 days of the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule  
3 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of  
4 habeas corpus should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and  
5 serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that have been  
6 transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues  
7 presented by the petition.

8           If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a  
9 traverse with the court and serving it on respondent within 30 days of his receipt  
10 of the answer.

11           3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in  
12 lieu of an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the  
13 Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion,  
14 petitioner shall file with the court and serve on respondent an opposition or  
15 statement of non-opposition within 30 days of receipt of the motion, and  
16 respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner a reply within 15 days  
17 of receipt of any opposition.

18           4. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must  
19 be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's  
20 counsel. Petitioner must also keep the court and all parties informed of any  
21 change of address.

22           SO ORDERED.

23           DATED: Feb. 11, 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES R. BREYER  
United States District Judge